

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims 1-30 to the application:

1. (New) A hockey stick shaft comprising:

an elongated body having opposed first and second end, said body comprising

a structural element having opposed first and second major wall component spacing apart opposed third and fourth major wall components, said first and second major wall components being wider than said third and fourth major wall components,

said first and second major wall components comprising first and second side surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof, said third and fourth major wall components comprising third and fourth side surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof,

said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces each being continuously overlaid with a layer of viscoelastic material from a point adjacent said first end to a point adjacent said second end,

said body further comprising a non-structural element comprising opposed first and second thin-shelled components spacing apart opposed third and fourth thin-shelled components,

said non-structural element being disposed on said layer of viscoelastic material,

wherein said first, second, third and fourth major wall components being thicker than said first, second, third and fourth thin shell components and said viscoelastic material being of a sufficient thickness to provide protection to said structural element from impacts applied to said non- structural element.

2. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 1 wherein said structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.
3. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 1 wherein said non-structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.
4. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 1 wherein said first, second, third and fourth major wall components are about two to four times thicker than said first, second, third and fourth thin shell components.

5. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 1 wherein said viscoelastic layer is selected from a group comprising thermoplastic rubber modified adhesive, polyester, urethane, polyurethane, mylar, tedlar silicone and epoxy films.
6. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 5 wherein said viscoelastic layer is disposed from said first end to said second end.
7. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 1 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 5 to 25 thousands of an inch.
8. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 7 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 22.5 thousands of an inch.
9. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 8 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness of about 20 thousands of an inch.
10. (New) A hockey stick shaft comprising:
 - an elongated body having opposed first and second end, said body comprising
 - a structural element having opposed first and second major wall component spacing apart opposed third and fourth major wall components, said first and second major wall components being wider than said third and fourth major wall components,
 - said first and second major wall components comprising first and second flat side surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof, said third and fourth major wall components comprising third and fourth flat side surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof,
 - said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces each being overlaid with a layer of viscoelastic material along said structural element, the thickness of said viscoelastic material on at least two of said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces being thicker than on said remaining side surfaces,
 - said body further comprising a non-structural element comprising opposed first and second thin-shelled components spacing apart opposed third and fourth thin-shelled components,
 - said non-structural element being disposed on said layer of viscoelastic material,
 - wherein said viscoelastic material being of a sufficient thickness to provide protection to said structural element from impacts applied to said non- structural element.
11. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 10 wherein said at least two of said thicker first, second, third and fourth side surfaces are adjacent to each other.

12. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 10 wherein said at least two of said thicker first, second, third and fourth side surfaces are opposed to each other.
13. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 10 wherein said structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.
14. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 10 wherein said non-structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.
15. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 10 wherein said viscoelastic layer is selected from a group comprising thermoplastic rubber midified adhesive, polyester, urethane, polyurethane, mylar, tedlar silicone and epoxy films.
16. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 15 wherein said viscoelastic layer is disposed from a point adjacent said first end to a point adjacent said second end.
17. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 15 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 5 to 25 thousands of an inch.
18. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 17 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 22.5 thousands of an inch.
19. (New) The hockey stick shaft of claim 18 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness of about 20 thousands of an inch.
20. (New) A composite hockey stick having an elongated shaft body having opposed first and second ends :

a structural element having opposed first and second major wall component spacing apart opposed third and fourth major wall components, said first and second major wall components being wider than said third and fourth major wall components, said first, second, third and fourth major wall components comprising composite fibers construction disposed in a matrix material,

said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces each being overlaid with a layer of viscoelastic material from a point adjacent said first end to a point adjacent said second end.
21. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 20 wherein said viscoelastic layer is selected from a group comprising thermoplastic rubber midified adhesive, polyester, urethane, polyurethane, mylar, tedlar silicone and epoxy films.

22. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 21 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 5 to 25 thousands of an inch.
23. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 22 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 22.5 thousands of an inch.
24. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness of about 20 thousands of an inch.
25. (New) A composite hockey stick shaft having an elongated body comprising opposed first and second ends, said body further having four side wall members, at least one said side wall members comprising
 - a single inner layer of fibers disposed within a matrix material,
 - a single layer of viscoelastic material anchored onto to the outside surface of said inner layer, said layer of viscoelastic material being disposed onto the outside surface of said inner layer from a point adjacent said first end to a point adjacent said second end,
 - a single outer layer of fibers disposed within a matrix material, said outer layer being disposed on and abutting the outside of said layer of viscoelastic material.
26. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 25 wherein said inner layer and said outer layer have substantially the same thickness
27. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 25 wherein said viscoelastic layer is selected from a group comprising thermoplastic rubber midified adhesive, polyester, urethane, polyurethane, mylar, tedlar silicone and epoxy films.
28. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 26 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 5 to 25 thousands of an inch.
29. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 28 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 22.5 thousands of an inch.
30. (New) The composite hockey stick shaft of claim 28 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness of about 20 thousands of an inch.